

My name is Jennifer Cruz and I am a student at Poolesville High School in Montgomery County. I am also a member of Fans of Immigration and Asylum Reform (FAIR), a student-advocacy group in Montgomery County that fights for humane detention policies, and reform of the asylum and immigration system.

I am writing to you today to urge you to support SB129: Access to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings. This bill would ensure that immigrants in Maryland who are in detention and facing deportation have access to legal representation. Right now 7 out of 10 of the detained Marylanders cannot access counsel; out of more than 400 Marylanders who are forced to fight to keep their children and family together. FAIR supports SB129 because we believe in universal representation: the right of ALL people to due process under the law.

I urge you to support SB129. Our community is counting on you.

Thank you for your time,  
Jennifer Cruz